GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4318
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM WORK RELATED DISEASES
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has urged the Government to incorporate preventive measures in their occupational safety and health policies;

(a) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether women suffer from work related communicable diseases and psychosocial factors; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government is taking to protect women from work related diseases?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): There is no specific request from the International Labour Organisation to the Government of India to incorporate preventive measures in the occupational safety and health policies. However, the International Labour Standards on Occupational Safety and Health adopted by the International Labour Conference from time to time emphasise the need for preventive measures in the Occupational Safety and Health policies of the member countries of the International Labour Organisation. Such a need is incorporated in the Convention No. 155 of the International Labour Organisation. The Government of India have not ratified this Convention for various reasons, including the fact that the national laws are presently not totally in consonance with the provisions of the above ILO Convention.

(c) to (f): The Factories Act, 1948 requires that where any worker in a factory contracts any disease specified in Schedule III thereof, the manager or the medical practioner concerned, shall send details of the same to the Chief Inspector of the Factories of the concerned state to ensure that facilities are provided to protect the safety and health of such workers. These provisions of the Factories Act are applicable to all workers irrespective of their gender. The Schedule III contains 29 diseases, including certain case of poisoning.